

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 7, 14 and 18 are pending with Claims 7, 14, and 18 being independent. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 10-12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 19-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 13, 17 and 19-21 have been withdrawn from consideration, as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 7, 14 and 18 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Request for Telephone Interview

To expedite prosecution and allowance Applicant has canceled Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 10-12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 19-21 and extensively amended remaining independent Claims 7, 14, and 18, in addition to amending the title to overcome the title objection. If this Amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss this case.

Title Objection

The title has been objected to as being non-descriptive of the claimed invention. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, the title has been amended to address the points raised by the Examiner. Applicant submits that as amended, the title is even more descriptive of the claimed invention. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Drawings

Figures 2, 7, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to correct minor and typographical errors therein. In addition, corrected formal replacement drawing sheets are being submitted herewith. The drawing amendments change “FORMAT OF JPEG FILE” to --FORMAT OF EXIF FILE-- and “FORMAT OF EXIF FD DATA” to --FORMAT OF EXIF IFD DATA-- in Figure 2, and change “STILE SHEET” to --STYLE SHEET--, in Figures 7, 9, 11 and 13.

Claim Rejections

Claim 15, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice and Claim 18 has been amended to address the points raised by the Examiner. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 7,010,144 to Davis.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 7, 14, and 18 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 7 relates to an image processing apparatus comprising a recording means a recording device configured to store an image file including an image area for storing image data and also including an attribute area for storing attribute information, a description device configured to describe the attribute information using tags defined by a tag-definable markup language, an encryption-and-compression device configured to encrypt and compress part or all of the tagged attribute information described by the description device, and a writing device configured to write the attribute information encrypted and compressed by the encryption-and-compression device into an arbitrary attribute area.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite a separation device configured to separate image data and attribute information included in the stored image file, a decompression-and-decryption device configured to decompress and decrypt the encrypted and compressed part of the attribute information separated by the separation means, an extraction device is configured to selectively extract attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information, and a display device configured to display the image and the selectively-extracted tagged attribute information.

In contrast, the citation to Davis is not understood to disclose or suggest at least an extraction device configured to selectively extract attribute information by analyzing the

tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information, as recited by amended Claim 7. In addition, the Davis patent, therefore, is not understood to disclose or suggest a display device configured to display the image and the selectively-extracted tagged attribute information, as also recited by amended Claim 7. For these reasons, Applicant submits that amended Claim 7 is not anticipated by the citation to Davis. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 7 be withdrawn. And since corresponding method and program Claims 14 and 18 have been amended in a similar manner, they are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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